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### **PATENT**

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:

FRANZ KONRAD-6

SERIAL NO.:

09/900,525

GROUP:

FILED:

JULY 6, 2001

TITLE:

SEPARATING DEVICE

# PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ATT: BOX MISSING PARTS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of this patent application, please amend the application as follows.

### IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete original claims 1 through 42 and replace with new claims 43 through 84 as attached hereto.

# <u>REMARKS</u>

By this Preliminary Amendment, the multiple dependency of some of the claims has been removed so as to avoid the surcharge associated therewith. Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested.